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 FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6358  
 INFO RUFHRS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS 2008  
 RUEHCR/USINT BAGHDAD 182  
 RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 2346  
 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1966  
 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 371  
 RUQMRA/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 1094  
 RUDTC/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2623  
 RUFNPS/AMEMBASSY PARIS 1980  
 RUDKBT/AMEMBASSY RABAT 1877  
 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 656  
 RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 3634  
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EQO. 12065: GDS 2/28/85 (EAGLETON, W.) OR-M  
 TAGS: PEPR, LY, US  
 SUBJECT: (U) QADHAFI'S INTERVIEW WITH JACK ANDERSON

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: IN INTERVIEW WITH <sup>(Mu'ammur)</sup> QADHAFI FEB 27, JACK ANDERSON  
 POSED NUMBER OF POINTED QUESTIONS AND FOR MOST PART GOT  
 STANDARD REPLIES WITH NOTHING OF SENSATIONAL NATURE.  
 QADHAFI'S OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR LIBYA WAS  
 STRONGEST WE HAVE HEARD. HIS DUAL POSITION ON PALESTINE  
 HAS NOT CHANGED. HE ANSWERED EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS RE  
 LIBYAN TROOPS IN UGANDA, WHEREABOUTS OF IMAM MUSA AL-SADR,  
 AND ALLEGED LIBYAN PLOT TO KILL SADAT IN 1977 WITH  
 EVASION OR DENIALS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN

BF (Libya)

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IMPROVING US-LIBYAN RELATIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS AND SAID AN EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. HE SEEMED INTRIGUED BY POSSIBILITY ONE DAY OF VISITING THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

3. COLUMNIST JACK ANDERSON, AT INVITATION OF LIBYAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, MADE A QUICK VISIT TO TRIPOLI FEB 26-28 TO INTERVIEW COLONEL QADHAFI. ACCORDING TO ANDERSON, HE HAD MADE SOME SCATHING REMARKS ABOUT QADHAFI, AND THE LIBYAN EMBASSY SUGGESTED HE COME TO TRIPOLI TO TALK WITH THE MAN HIMSELF.

4. ANDERSON SPENT NEARLY TWO HOURS EVENING FEB 27 WITH QADHAFI IN HIS TENT IN THE AZZIZIA BARRACKS COMPOUND. CONVERSATION WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY IN ENGLISH, THOUGH INTERPRETERS FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY WERE PRESENT TO HELP WHEN NEEDED. ANDERSON RETURNED TO THE U.S. FEB 28 AND WILL BE USING MATERIAL IN HIS COLUMN, ON TV AND RADIO WITHIN TEN DAYS OR TWO WEEKS. LIBYANS TAPED MOST OF CONVERSATION AND WE MAY GET A TRANSCRIPT LATER. MEANWHILE, ANDERSON BRIEFED US FROM HIS NOTES.

5. ANDERSON HAD A NUMBER OF TOUGH, AND SEVERAL POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING, QUESTIONS FOR THE COLONEL, BUT ON ADVICE FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTACTS, HE BEGAN BY REFERRING TO QADHAFI'S THIRD UNIVERSAL THEORY AS FOUNDED IN THE "GREEN BOOK." THIS PRODUCED A VERY LENGTHY REPLY, ILLUSTRATED BY QADHAFI'S DIAGRAMS ON PAPER, WHICH INCLUDED CRITICISM OF COMMUNISM. WE DID NOT REVIEW THAT PART OF HIS NOTES SINCE TIME WAS LIMITED, BUT WE ASSUME THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN QADHAFI'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC THEORIES.

6. TERRORISM--QADHAFI DISCUSSED LIBYA'S SUPPORT FOR "JUST CAUSES" AND PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLE FOR THEIR FREEDOM. HE DENIED, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA SUPPORTED "EXTREMIST TERRORIST GROUPS" SUCH AS CARLOS, BAADER-MEINHOF AND JAPANESE RED ARMY. THESE STORIES, HE SAID, WERE ALL ANTI-LIBYAN PROPAGANDA DISSEMINATED

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BY ISRAELIS. HIJACKING WAS NOT MENTIONED.

7. IRAN--WHEN ASKED ABOUT LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR KHOMEINI, QADHAFI SAID LIBYA HAD APPEALED TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE FOR CHANGE, BUT HE DUCKED QUESTION ABOUT ARMS OR OTHER ASSISTANCE.

8. SADAT AND EGYPTIAN THREAT--AT ONE POINT QADHAFI SAID THAT SADAT WOULD BE ELIMINATED BY THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE. ANDERSON REFERRED TO PRESS SPECULATION THAT EGYPT DESIRED PEACE WITH ISRAEL SO AS TO TURN ON LIBYA AND ACQUIRE LIBYAN OIL WEALTH. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT LIBYA EXPECTED AN EGYPTIAN ATTACK. IN APPARENT DESIRE FOR REASSURANCE, QADHAFI SAID LIBYANS THOUGHT U.S. WAS ENCOURAGING SADAT TO ATTACK. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE CASE, AND QADHAFI DID NOT PRESS THE POINT.

9. C-130'S--QADHAFI DISPLAYED HIS USUAL IRRITATION OVER U.S. REFUSAL TO PERMIT DELIVERY OF EIGHT C-130'S PURCHASED BY LIBYA IN 1973. HE SAID A BIG POWER LIKE U.S. MUST HONOR ITS PROMISES. THE U.S. WAS ACTING LIKE A THIEF BY NOT RELEASING PLANES OR MONEY. WHEN ANDERSON OBSERVED THAT LIBYA COULD GET ITS MONEY BACK, QADHAFI REPLIED THAT THEY WOULD LOSE HALF OF IT BECAUSE OF INFLATION AND NO INTEREST.

10. US-LIBYAN RELATIONS--QADHAFI SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. POLICIES BASED ON ALLIANCES WITH LOSING REGIMES SUCH AS THE SHAH, SADAT, KING HASSAN AND HAILE SELASSIE. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY, WHILE U.S. PEOPLE WOULD UNDERSTAND ISSUES IF APPROACHED ON PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE BASIS. IN THAT WAY BOTH SIDES WOULD UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER BETTER. LIBYA, HE SAID, WANTS BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN SPITE OF ANDERSON'S EFFORT, QADHAFI WOULD NOT COMMENT ON BILLY CARTER'S ROLE IN PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE DIPLOMACY.

11. ISRAEL-PALESTINE--IN REPLY TO ANDERSON'S QUESTION, QADHAFI SAID THAT IF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE DECIDED ON A

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PEACEFUL SOLUTION, LIBYA WOULD ACCEPT IT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION MUST BE MADE BY "WHOLE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE." AT ANOTHER POINT IN INTERVIEW HE TOOK HIS STANDARD PUBLIC LINE THAT "FOREIGNERS" WHO CAME TO PALESTINE AFTER 1948 SHOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND LEAVE PALESTINE TO JEWS, CHRISTIANS AND MOSLEMS WHO LIVED THERE PREVIOUSLY TO FORM A DEMOCRATIC STATE. ALTERNATIVE TO SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD BE CONTINUED ARMED STRUGGLE. HE SAID SADAT AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE NOW GETTING ARMS FROM U.S. WHICH THEY INTENDED EVENTUALLY TO USE IN A UNITED ARAB EFFORT AGAINST ISRAEL. ASKED WHETHER ARMED STRUGGLE WOULD BE A MOSLEM EFFORT, QADHAFI REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE AN ARAB NATIONAL STRUGGLE WITH SUPPORT FROM MOSLEM COUNTRIES.

12. UGANDA--ANDERSON ASKED ABOUT RUMORS THAT LIBYAN SOLDIERS HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN UGANDA. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT LIBYA HAD ONLY BANKERS, TEACHERS AND TRADERS IN UGANDA AND THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT ANY OF THEM HAD BEEN CAPTURED.

13. IMAM MUSA AL-SADR--IN REPLY TO ANDERSON'S QUESTION, QADHAFI SAID LIBYANS HAD AN "OFFICIAL DOCUMENT" INDICATING THAT MUSA AL-SADR HAD GONE FROM TRIPOLI TO ROME LAST AUGUST. HE SPECULATED THAT IMAM'S FATE COULD HAVE BEEN RELATED TO LEBANESE POLITICS. WHEN ANDERSON SUGGESTED THAT MUSA AL-SADR'S ABUSE OF LIBYAN FUNDS MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSE OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE, QADHAFI SAID THIS WAS NOT TRUE.

14. NUCLEAR WEAPONS--WHEN ANDERSON PROBED QADHAFI RE POSSIBLE LIBYAN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, QADHAFI INSISTED THAT LIBYA WAS INTERESTED SOLELY IN PEACEFUL USES. WHEN TOLD BY ANDERSON THAT ISRAEL ALREADY HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ASKED WHAT ARABS WOULD DO, QADHAFI FINALLY SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT ARAB NATION AS A WHOLE WOULD HAVE TO GET THEM. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO STRESS THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SMALL AREA OF THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE VERY "DANGEROUS" FOR EVERYONE, INCLUDING THOSE WHO USE

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THEM. HE REPEATED THIS SEVERAL TIMES.

15. ALLEGED LIBYAN PLOT TO KILL SADAT--IN REPLY TO ANDERSON'S QUESTION RE PRESS STORIES THAT ISRAEL HAD INITIATED RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SADAT IN 1977 BY INFORMING HIM OF A LIBYAN PLOT TO KILL HIM, QADHAFI SAID LIBYA WAS NOT INVOLVED IN SUCH A PLOT. ANDERSON PROBED FURTHER BY NOTING THAT PALESTINIANS MIGHT THINK THEY HAVE LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN ELIMINATING SADAT, BUT QADHAFI DENIED THAT LIBYA WOULD FAVOR SUCH MEASURES.

16. POSSIBLE U.S. USE OF MILITARY FORCES TO PROTECT OIL--QADHAFI ASKED ANDERSON WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT U.S. WAS PREPARED TO USE ARMS IN ARAB AREA TO SECURE OIL SUPPLIES. ANDERSON REPLIED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS BY U.S. LEADERS INDICATED THAT OIL SUPPLIES WERE "OF VITAL INTEREST" TO U.S. THEREFORE, HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO HESITATION IN USING ARMED FORCE TO SECURE SUCH VITAL INTERESTS. QADHAFI EXPRESSED OUTRAGE AT IDEA THAT U.S. TROOPS MIGHT MOVE INTO LIBYA OR OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES TO TAKE OVER OIL FIELDS. ANDERSON SAID HE DID NOT MEAN U.S. FORCES WOULD BE USED AGAINST COUNTRY SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA, BUT RATHER TO COUNTER A SOVIET THREAT.

17. QADHAFI VISIT TO U.S.?--AS HE GOT UP TO LEAVE, ANDERSON ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR LIBYA AND U.S. TO ELEVATE THEIR MISSIONS TO AMBASSADORIAL STATUS. (THIS WAS A MOVE ANDERSON FAVORED BEFORE ARRIVING IN TRIPOLI.) QADHAFI REPLIED, "ABSOLUTELY. IT WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL." ANDERSON THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE QADHAFI TO VISIT HIM IN WASHINGTON. QADHAFI REPLIED THAT HE WOULD INDEED LIKE TO VISIT WASHINGTON. (ANDERSON GOT IMPRESSION THAT, THOUGH THIS EXCHANGE WAS IN A JOCLAR VEIN, QADHAFI WOULD IN FACT VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME AND BE RECEIVED BY U.S. LEADERS THERE.)

18. COMMENT: ANDERSON SAID QADHAFI WAS POLITE AND

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LOW KEY THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW. HE ADMITTED HE HAD TRIED TO LEAD GADHAFI INTO MAKING 'NEWSWORTHY AND PERHAPS INDISCREET STATEMENTS BUT HAD NOT SUCCEEDED. IN THIS RESPECT, INTERVIEW WAS SOMETHING OF A DISAPPOINTMENT FOR HIM. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT VISIT WAS WORTHWHILE AND HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT EVEN IF HE HAD KNOWN THERE WOULD BE NO SENSATIONAL OUTCOME. HIS REPORTING WILL PROBABLY NOT ENTIRELY PLEASE THE LIBYANS, BUT WE HAVE IMPRESSION HE WILL HAVE POSITIVE AS WELL AS NEGATIVE THINGS TO SAY. HE MAY REFLECT HIS BELIEF, AS STATED TO US, THAT U.S. WOULD NORMALIZE ITS RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND SELL LIBYA ALL BUT SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, A VIEW HE ADOPTED BEFORE HIS VISIT HERE.

EAGLETON

END OF MESSAGE

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